

REMARKS

This response is offered in reply to the office action of April 18, 2005. A petition and fee for a one month time extension are enclosed.

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the allowance of claims 8, 9, 15, 19, and 21. Applicants also appreciate the indicated allowability of the subject matter of claims 14 and 16 in the office action.

In paragraph 1 of the office action, claim 20 is objected under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 14. Applicants have canceled claim 20 to overcome this objection.

Reconsideration is requested.

In paragraph 3 of the office action, claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) in view of newly cited Bertels US Patent 3,202,793.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10 to incorporate the features of claim 16, which is indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants note that the cited '793 patent does not disclose the features of amended claims 1 and 10. Instead, Figure 1 of the '793 patent merely discloses welding a rolled section of steel angle bar 9 to partially zinc coated steel strip 10 which is welded to tube 8. Figures 3 and 4 of the cited '793 patent show a steel plate 16 welded to a steel strip which has the same thickness as the steel plate 16 and which is welded to an aluminum plate 21.

As a result, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 is requested. Claims 1 and 10 as well as claims 2 and 11 depending therefrom are believed to be in allowable condition.

In paragraph 6 of the office action, claims 3, 6, 7, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) in view of the same '793 patent.

With respect to claim 3, the '793 patent does not disclose or suggest a method wherein a metal bridging patch is drawn arc welded to a metal tube. The drawn arc welding process reduces heat input to the tube as described in Applicants' specification. The '793 patent teaches arc welding but fails utterly to teach or suggest use of drawn arc welding to weld a bridging patch to a tube.

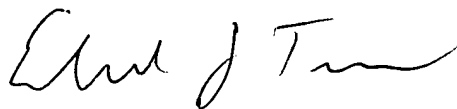
With respect to claims 6 and 12, the '793 patent fails utterly to teach or suggest a spot weld between a metal sheet and multiple bridging patches. The same is true of claims 7 and 13.

As a result, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 3, 6, 7, 12, and 13 is requested. These claims are believed to be in allowable condition.

Applicants have added new claims 22-25 which are believed to be allowable also. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee for new claims 22-25 to my deposit account No.20-1124.

Allowance of the pending claims is requested.

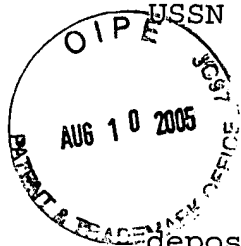
Respectfully submitted,



Edward J. Timmer Reg. No. 27402

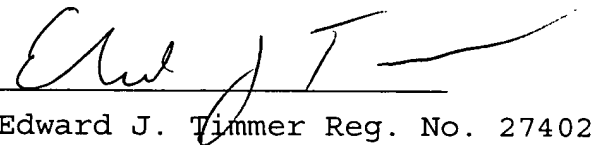
Enclosures: Postal Card

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service under 37 CFR 1.8 as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 8, 2005.


Edward J. Timmer Reg. No. 27402